

REMARKS

After entry of the above amendments, the claims pending in the subject application are 24-41. Reconsideration of this application based on the Amendments and Remarks presented herein is respectfully requested.

Claims 24, 31, and 37 have been amended to recite that the "associative thickener comprises a dipropylene glycol monoalkyl ether and optionally a polyurethane-based associative thickener, wherein the alkyl in the dipropylene glycol monoalkyl ether is at least one of n-pentyl and n-hexyl". Support for the amendment can be found at page 11, line 15.

35 U.S.C. §102 REJECTIONS

Claims 24-28, 30, and 35-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by EP905157 to Doolan et al.

EP905157 does not disclose the claimed dipropylene glycol monoalkyl ether. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 24-28, 30, and 35-36 are not anticipated by EP905157 to Doolan et al.

Claims 24-26, 28-30, and 35-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,698,628 to Masuda et al.

Masuda '628 only discloses dipropylene glycol monomethyl ether, dipropylene glycol monobutyl ether, and dipropylene glycol isobutyl ether (column 14, lines 52-53). Masuda '628 does not disclose the claimed dipropylene glycol monoalkyl ether. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 24-26, 28-30, and 35-36 are not anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,698,628 to Masuda et al.

Claims 24-30 and 35-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,726,244 to McGee et al.

McGee '244 only discloses dipropylene glycol butyl ether (column 6, lines 12-13). McGee '244 does not disclose the claimed dipropylene glycol monoalkyl ether. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 24-30 and 35-36 are not anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,726,244 to McGee et al.

Claims 24-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,204,401 to Anderson, Jr. et al.

Anderson '401 only discloses dipropylene methyl ether, dipropylene ethyl ether, dipropylene propyl ether, and dipropylene butyl ether (column 4, lines 48-50). Anderson '401 does not disclose the claimed dipropylene glycol monoalkyl ether. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 24-41 are not anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,204,401 to Anderson, Jr. et al.

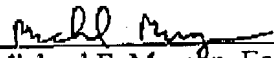
35 U.S.C. §103 REJECTIONS

Claims 24-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of EP905157 to Doolan et al., United States Patent No. 5,698,628 to Masuda et al., United States Patent No. 5,726,244 to McGee et al., and United States Patent No. 5,204,401 to Anderson, Jr. et al.

From above, none of the cited references disclose the claimed dipropylene glycol monoalkyl ether. The combination of the references does not disclose or suggest the claimed dipropylene glycol monoalkyl ether. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 24-41 are patentable over the combination of EP905157 to Doolan et al., United States Patent No. 5,698,628 to Masuda et al., United States Patent No. 5,726,244 to McGee et al., and United States Patent No. 5,204,401 to Anderson, Jr. et al.

In view of the amendments and remarks contained above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 rejections, and request that a Formal Notice of Allowance be issued for claims 24-41. Should the Examiner have any questions about the above remarks, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: 27 January 2004